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Security Council

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Letter dated 8 December 2004 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Nigeria to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In my capacity as the representative of the current Chairman of the African Union, I have the honour to transmit herewith a communiqué on the situation in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and the relations between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republic of Rwanda, adopted by the Peace and Security Council of the African Union at its twenty-first meeting, held on 7 December 2004 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of this letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Simeon A. **Adekanye**
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
Representative of the current Chairman of the African Union

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Annex to the letter dated 8 December 2004 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Nigeria to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: English and French]

Communiqué of the twenty-first meeting of the Peace and Security Council

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union, at its twenty-first meeting, held at ministerial level, on 7 December 2004, to deliberate on the situation in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and the relations between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda, adopted the following decision:

The Council:

1. Expresses its great concern at the continued presence of the ex-FAR/Interahamwe in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which constitutes a security problem for Rwanda, as well as for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region as a whole, and negatively affects the relations amongst the countries of the region;

2. Stresses the need to seek a peaceful solution to the problem posed by the ex-FAR/Interahamwe and other foreign armed groups in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and urges Rwanda to refrain from any unilateral action. Council further calls on the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda to exercise maximum restraint;

3. Requests, in view of the gravity of the situation and its far-reaching implications for the ongoing peace process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and regional peace and stability, the Chairperson of the Commission, in consultation with the current Chairperson of the African Union and the Chairperson of the Peace and Security Council, to take appropriate steps to convene, as soon as possible, a summit bringing together the Presidents of Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in the presence of the African Union, the United Nations and other stakeholders, with a view to defusing the current tension and to consider ways and means to effectively address the issue of the disarmament and demobilization of the ex-FAR/Interahamwe;

4. Appeals to the United Nations to vigorously pursue its efforts to strengthen the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) to enable it effectively to support the disarmament and demobilization of the ex-FAR/Interahamwe. Council urges Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to fully cooperate with the United Nations and the African Union towards the speedy establishment and operationalization of the Joint Verification Mechanism, the terms of reference of which were agreed upon in New York on 22 September 2004. In this regard, Council requests the Chairperson of the Commission to work closely with the parties and the United Nations for the enhancement of the Joint Verification Mechanism, including its mode of operation and strength.